

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 04785 150458Z

13

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 AID-10 PRS-01 DRC-01

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R 150400Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3664

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 04785

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 3 SPECIAL DAILY SITREP - APRIL 11

FOLLOWING TEL RECEIVED FROM BIEN HOA APRIL 12 SENT ACTION SAIGON
H/W REPEATED TO YOU. QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 181

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJ: MR 3 SPECIAL DAILY SITREP - APRIL 11

1. FOR 24 HOUR PERIOD ENDING AT 0800 APRIL 12, MR 3 REPORTED 40
MILITARY INCIDENTS COMPARED WITH 53 AND 49 IN THE PRECEDING TWO
24 HOUR PERIODS. SCATTERED ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE AND SMALL
UNIT GROUND CONTACTS AGAIN CHARACTERIZED THE FIGHTING IN MOST OF
THE REGION. THE EXCEPTION TO AN OTHERWISE RELATIVELY STABLE
SITUATION WAS AT TONLE CHAM. THIS STRATEGIC RANGER BASE ON THE TAY
NINH/BINH DUONG BORDER WAS REPORTED BY MR 3 HQS AS OVERRUN AND
CONSIDERED LOST DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS APRIL 12 (SEE BIEN
HOA 179). HAU NGHIA REPORTED 10 INCIDENTS WITH MOST ACTIVITY
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 04785 150458Z

CONCENTRATED NORTHEAST OF TRANG BANG. DUC HUE WAS QUIET WITH

NO INCIDENTS REPORTED. VNAF FLEW 34 SORTIES IN HAU NGHIA, TAY NINH, LONG KHANH AND PHUOC LONG.

2. ON APRIL 11 THE ENEMY LAUNCHED 17 ABF'S (4 MAJOR) AGAINST GVN FORCES, 10 LESS THAN THE DAY BEFORE. THERE WERE 10 GROUND CONTACTS; NO COMBINED GROUND/ABF ATTACKS WERE REPORTED. CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES FELL TO LOWEST LEVEL IN RECENT WEEKS, BUT THOSE AT TONLE CHAM (AS YET UNKNOWN) ARE NOT INCLUDED. GVN LOSSES WERE 72 (8 KIA, 63 WIA, 1 MIA) WHILE NVA/VC LOST 8 KIA.

3. TONLE CHAM. OUR INFORMATION INDICATES THAT COMMUNIST MORTAR BARRAGES WITH OVER 900 ROUNDS BETWEEN 1630 AND 2000, AND AGROUND ASSAULT DURING THE NIGHT, OVERPOWERED THE OUTPOST WITH ITS UNDER-STRENGTH RANGER BN OF ABOUT 255 MEN. VNAF AIR SUPPORT WAS PRECLUDED BY POOR FLYING CONDITIONS. L 19 OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN THE AREA HAVE HAD SPORADIC RADIO CONTACT WITH A GROUP OF RANGER ESCAPEES (NUMBER UNKNOWN) WHO AT NOON APRIL 12 HAD REACHED A POINT SOME 8 KMS SW OF AN LOC. CONTACT WITH THE BASE WAS LOST AT 0200 HOURS APRIL 12.

4. IN NW HAU NGHIA, CHA RAY OUTPOST, 6 KMS NE OF TRANG BANG, WAS HIT BY THREE ABF'S. THE 319TH RF BN AT THIS LOCATION REPORTED CASUALTIES OF 10 WIA. FOR THE SECOND TIME IN PAST 48 HRS NLVA#ELEMENTS OF THE ERD BN 46TH REGT AND THE 22ND TANK BN ENGAGED ENEMY FORCES 7 KMS NE OF TRANG BANG RESULTING IN FRIENDLY CASUALTIES OF 1 KIA, 10 WIA AND ENEMY UNKNOWN. A TERRORIST GRENADE ATTACK 5 KMS SE OF TRANG BANG KILLED 1 CIVILIAN AND WOUNDED ONE.

5. IN BINH DUONG, THE 3RD CO 1ST BN 8TH REGT ENGAGED A SQUAD SIZE ENEMY FORCE 16 KMS SE OF BEN CAT RESULTING IN 2 ENEMY KIA AND NO FRIENDLY LOSSES. ADDING TO RECENT KIDNAPPINGS, 1 WOMAN AND 4 CHILDREN WERE ABDUCTED NORTH OF LAI KHE.

6. FOUR GROUND CONTACTS WERE REPORTED BETWEEN RF UNITS AND A PLATOON SIZE ENEMY FORCE 15 KMS NW OF HIEU THIEN, TAY NINH IN WHICH GVN LOSSES WERE 3 KIA AND 7 WIA WITH 2 ENEMY KIA.

7. IN LONG AN, THE 21ST RIVER PATROL WAS ATTACKED BY SMALL
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PAGE 03 SAIGON 04785 150458Z

ARMS FIRE 9 KMS NW OF THU THUA, RESULTING IN 7 FRIENDLY WOUNDED AND PARTIAL DAMAGE TO THE BOAT.

8. WITH THE SITUATION RELATIVELY STABILIZED FOR THE PRESENT, WE PLAN TO SUSPEND OUR SPECIAL DAILY SITREPS. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE REPORTED AS THEY OCCUR AND SPECIAL SITREPS WILL BE RESUMED IF DEVELOPMENTS WARRANT.
PETERS UNQTE

MARTIN

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

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